

CLAIM AMENDMENTS (Merjan 10/730,385)

We claim:

Claim 1 (previously presented and allowed). A pile comprising a hollow uniformly tapered steel body, said tapered body having a cross-section, taken perpendicular to a longitudinal axis, which is a convex polygon having 8 to 24 sides, said sides being substantially equal in length, said body being at least about 3 meters long, having a lower diameter which is about 200 mm to 400 mm and a larger upper diameter and being of steel about 5 to 13 mm thick formed from sheet steel folded into the tapered shape of said convex polygon and having its longitudinally extending free edges welded together, said body having at its bottom a closure constructed and arranged to substantially prevent ingress of the soil into said body during the driving of the pile, the construction and arrangement of said hollow body being such that said hollow body can be driven into the ground by hammer blows transmitted to the hollow unfilled top of said body and be filled with concrete thereafter.

Claim 2 (previously presented and allowed). A pile as in claim 1, said polygon being a substantially regular polygon.

Claim 3 (previously presented and allowed). A pile comprising a hollow uniformly tapered steel body, said tapered body having a cross-section, taken perpendicular to a longitudinal axis, which is a convex polygon having 8 to 24 sides, said sides being substantially equal in length, said body being at least about 3 meters long, having a lower

diameter which is about 200 mm to 400 mm and a larger upper diameter and being of steel about 5 to 13 mm thick formed from sheet steel folded into the tapered shape of said convex polygon and having its longitudinally extending free edges welded together, said body having at its bottom a closure constructed and arranged to substantially prevent ingress of the soil into said body during the driving of the pile, the very top of said body being formed to a circular cross-section such that said top can engage with, match and be butt-welded to the end of a straight pipe of corresponding circular cross-section, the construction and arrangement of said hollow body being such that said hollow body can be driven into the ground by hammer blows transmitted to the hollow unfilled top of said body and be filled with concrete thereafter.

Claim 4 (previously presented and allowed) A driven pile in place in the ground, said pile having at its lower end the body of claim 1 filled with concrete.

Claim 5 (previously presented and allowed). A pile driving process which comprises driving a hollow uniformly tapered steel body into the ground by blows transmitted to the very top of said body and filling said body with concrete, said tapered body having a cross-section, taken perpendicular to a longitudinal axis, which is a convex polygon having 8 to 24 sides, said sides being substantially equal in length, said body being at least about 3 meters long, having a lower diameter which is about 200 mm to 400 mm and a larger upper diameter and being of steel about 5 to 13 mm thick formed from sheet steel folded into the tapered shape of said convex polygon and having its longitudinally extending free edges welded together, said body having at its bottom a closure constructed and arranged to substantially prevent ingress of the soil into said body during the driving of the pile.

Claim 6 (cancelled).

Claim 7 (cancelled).

Claim 8 (cancelled).

Claim 9 (cancelled).

Claim 10 (cancelled).

Claim 11 (previously presented and allowed). A pile as in claim 3, said polygon being a substantially regular polygon.

Claim 12 (previously presented and allowed). A process as in claim 5, said polygon being a substantially regular polygon.